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SAMDECH NORODOM SIHANOUK VISITS DRVN



At the invitation of President Ton Duc Thang, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, President of the National United Front of Kampuchea (FUNK), accompanied by Princess Monique Sihanouk, Samdech Penn Nouth, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, Chairman of the Politbureau of the FUNK, and his wife, and other Cambodian VIP's arrived in Hanoi on May 25, 1970 on an official visit to the DRVN. He was warmly welcomed by the leaders of the DRVN and the population of the Capital City (See photo).

Samdech N. Sihanouk and the other distinguished Cambodian guests attended on the evening of May 26 a state reception given by President Ton Duc Thang.

On the afternoon of the same day, he laid a wreath at the Hanoi War Memorial and visited the house on

stairs of late President Ho Chi Minh.

President Ton Duc Thang and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk had cordial talks. Also present were, on the Vietnamese side: Premier Pham Van Dong, Vice-Premiers Vo Nguyen Giap and Nguyen Duy Trinh, Minister Hoang Minh Giam, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nguyen Co Thach and Ambassador Nguyen Thuong, and on the Cambodian side: Samdech Premier Penn Nouth, Ministers Ngo Hov, Thionun Mumm and Huot Sambath and Ambassador Siem An.

The Hanoi City Council called on the evening of May 27 a big rally in honour of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and personalities of his suite.

Important speeches were delivered on this occasion by Premier Pham Van Dong and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, large excerpts of which are given in this issue.

CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG ISSUES STATEMENT CONDEMNING AMERICAN POLICY OF AGGRESSION AND IN SUPPORT OF INDOCHINESE PEOPLES' STRUGGLE

(May 20, 1970)

PEOPLE of the world, unite and defeat the US aggressors and all their running dogs!

A new upsurge in the struggle against US imperialism is now emerging throughout the world. Ever since World War Two, US imperialism and its followers have been continuously launching wars of aggression and the people in various countries have been continuously waging revolutionary wars to defeat the aggressors. The danger of a new world war still exists and the people of all countries must get prepared. But revolution is the main trend in the world today.

Unable to win in Viet Nam and Laos, the US aggressors treacherously engineered the reactionary coup d'état by the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique, brazenly dispatched their troops to invade Cambodia and resumed the bombing of North Viet Nam, and this has aroused the furious resistance of the three Indochinese peoples. I warmly support the fighting spirit of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, in opposing US imperialism and its lackeys. I warmly support the Joint Declaration of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples. I warmly support the establishment of the Royal Government of National Union under the leadership of the National United Front of Kampuchea. Strengthening their unity, supporting each other and persevering in a protracted people's war, the three Indochinese peoples will certainly overcome all difficulties and win complete victory.

While massacring the people in other countries, US imperialism is slaughtering the white and black people on its own country. Nixon's fascist atrocities have kindled the raging flames of the revolutionary mass movement in the United States. The Chinese people firmly support the revolutionary struggle of the American people. I am convinced that the American people who are fighting valiantly will ultimately win victory and that the fascist rule on the United States will inevitably be defeated.

The Nixon government is beset with troubles internally and externally, with utter chaos at home and extreme isolation abroad. The mass movement of protest against US aggression in Cambodia has swept the globe. Less than ten days after its establishment, the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia was recognized by nearly 50 countries. The situation is getting better and better in the war of resistance against US aggression and for national salvation waged by the people of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

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○ Children in the DRVN

WHO LOVES Uncle Ho
Chi Minh
Better than me, children,
de!"

A chubby little girl with rosy cheeks, led the round her childish voice drowned the chorus.

The annual festival of the kindergarten at Tan Tien, a village in Hung Yen province, was attended by mothers, too.

"It's Chinh," said my neighbour, pointing her finger to a little girl. "How plucky she is! Only a few months ago, she was so shy and dirty at home!"

"They are now all sweet after some time at the school," an old country woman told me, chewing her pan. Fancy, there were mothers who refused to send their little ones to the infant school!"

It was then that the province received the visit of President Ho Chi Minh who at a meeting gave the famous recommendation: "If we think in terms of a decade, we plant trees. If we think in terms of a century, we make men."

His comment has now become a watchword. The Party members soon realized the utility of pre-school education. And it was not so difficult to convince women of it. It took only some persuasion work. The children in the village had dirty habits and knew nothing about hygiene. They were rude and hated adults at one another. For want of care, some got drowned, other provoked fights.

The co-operative management prepared essays on the advantages of pre-school

CHILDREN IN THE DRVN

It suffices to scour Hanoi and visit some villages in the delta and highlands to see that despite twenty-five years of war and an under-developed economy, the children in the DRVN are full of life and joy. It is because of the regime's solicitous and comprehensive care for their education, health and recreation. On the occasion of Children's International Day (June 1) we give below some glimpses of the DRVN policy regarding children.

girl manage so many children?"

Hong was not discouraged. By dint of insisting, she succeeded in obtaining the permission to use the communal house and turned it into a classroom. It was an old building which formerly served as a place of work-

the smaller ones and make a difference between study and recreation.

The mothers were now satisfied when at the end of a working day, they brought home a neat and well-behaved offspring.

The experiment proved successful. Since then, 34 infant classes have been opened in all the 10 co-operatives of Tan Tien village, forming an infant school run by a managerial board. Each production team has its own infant class, one class for every 30 peasant households on the average. With the addition of 34 crèches, there was one such organization for every 45 households.

Peddling its own cause without any assistance from the state and any modern furniture, Tan Tien now boasts a whole network of infant classes.

EVERYONE'S CONCERN

THE development of the school is due mostly to the concern of all the co-op farmers.

Old Khoat is one of the sponsors of the school. I saw him in the shade of a guava tree in his garden, his head resting on a small chair with plenty of toys.

"What are you doing, grand father?" I asked him.

"Pottering with odds and ends," he said, raising his white-haired head. "You see, I am too old to do field work. So, apart from gar-

dening, I mend the furniture of the infant school and toys for children. It's quite a pleasure for old folk like us to be of some use to the little ones."

The co-op farmers still talk of a generous gesture of old Khoat. He has given two poplars he had planted forty years ago to the first infant class which was in need of furniture. To those who dissuaded him from doing so, he said: "Of course, these trees are most valuable. But the children are more precious to me." And he set a good example. Other old-agers took down their scrolls which adorned their dwellings and used the wood to make furniture for the classroom. They planted trees around the classes for the children to eat the fruit and play in their shade.

Following suit, the mass organizations address themselves to the task of helping infant classes.

The Women's Union urges mothers to send their dear ones to school and donates cash money for the fees. The youth organizations provide teachers and lend a helping hand in any major work. The village nurse looks after the children's health. The teachers of general education schools help the mistresses to make teaching material and toys. State trade companies supply the school on a priority basis with vacuum flasks, wash-basins, clothes, children's footwear, etc.

(Continued page 7)



An infant school in a Hanoi suburb



AMERICAN bombardments of North Vietnam have made many orphans, who would have been deprived of family happiness and forsaken if...

A 10-year-old girl of Quang Binh province, one morning, lost her whole family: her father, her mother and her two brothers.

Later, she has not ceased asking the adults: "I could not weep that day! Why?" A boy of 7 wept and cried desperately: "No, I don't want to leave my brother," every time people tried to lead away his 4-year-old young brother, the only next of kin left to him after a bombing raid... How to take care of these children, raise them and educate them so that they may grow up normally? The state alone cannot see to this difficult and complex problem. It is the people who, while unflinchingly confronting the ferocious attacks of a powerful and rabid enemy and relying on their valiant social organization, have surmounted multiple difficulties to accomplish their duty towards the dead and towards those on whom depends the future of the nation.

Immediately after the outbreak of war, the government issued directives concerning the status of war victims. As far as orphans are concerned, it took concrete measures for organizing them and guaranteeing their rights and defined the responsibility of the state

and the administration at all levels.

It made it a point "not to let any orphan to be neglected, suffer from hunger and cold and drop their studies; families which adopt orphans should be encouraged and helped tide over difficulties if any" (Cq. of the Govt. No. 157/CP).

In Viet Nam, adoption of orphans has been part of the ancient social community, the family, parenthood and neighbourhood bonds kept all the members together. When a child lost his parents, his great family (parents descending from the same ancestor) attended to his maintenance and education. People used to say: "A drop of pink blood is better than a pond of water." (A relative, however distant, is nearer than a stranger). Never had neglect been shown to anyone who bore the same family name. When the orphan was deprived of all family support, the community adopted him.

Socialism which has established new human relations has upheld this tradition.

On the ruins wrought by the Americans, the people have worked hard to restore life to normal and put smiles on the innocent faces of the young victims of the US war... True to the tradition and especially prompted by a solid family sense, uncles and aunts of the orphans, and even distant relatives, have approached local administration committees and insisted on welcoming them to their homes. A father of 5 wept when speaking of his orphaned niece: "She is the last of my brother's family. I will raise her as one of my own children. Rice or soup, we will share it together."

The agricultural co-ops have not left these families in the lurch. Very young orphans receive an annual allowance in cash and in kind equivalent to the remuneration their parents got in their lifetime. To grown-up orphans, the co-op provides jobs, and this takes from them the humiliating feeling that they are living at the expense of others. They get their rice ration from the co-op's relief granary. The school exempts them from the tuition fees and other contributions.

More often, the co-op or the close relatives of the orphans rebuild their houses so that they can go on living their habitual life, and assign one of their relatives or one of their neighbours, preferably an old woman, to live with them and attend to their education. In most cases, their school-mistresses agree to be their god-mothers and take charge of them.

Peasants who have few or no children frequently offer to adopt orphans of their neighbours or their acquaintances. Before committing these children to those peasants, the local administration committee and the co-op management must carefully study their records.

Three essential conditions are required: good morality, comfortable circumstances and few children and dependents. The Social Security Commission joins the local Committee of the Women's Union in supervising the application by local authorities of regulations concerning the status of war orphans. These commissions pay regular visits to the adoptive families.

Orphans who were children of workers and public employees are placed under the protection of the Federation of Trade Unions. As in the countryside, their nearest relatives are put in direct charge.

Quang Binh province had organized a war orphans' pilot camp which had an about a hundred strong population. This form of organization failed to respond to the affective needs of these children who suffered acutely from shock and to whom a normal physical and moral life should be restored. Moreover it required substantial appropriations from the state. It has been therefore dropped. Adoption by the families or by the collectivities, with state assistance,

has greatly helped raise and educate the war orphans. Only for seriously wounded orphans who need special care and for those of Vinh Linh (at the 17th parallel) has the Social Security Department set up a special establishment. As soon as this institution was installed, the inhabitants of surrounding areas and those of the cities applied to the Ministry of the Interior for the adoption of these children.

We met Nhung, that 6-year-old orphaned girl who did not know why she could not weep upon the death of her parents and brothers. Raised at first at this special establishment, she has become the adoptive daughter of a family. She very much

loves her adoptive parents, yet she always remembers her own family, her native village. She likes to relate in detail to her adoptive mother the circumstances of her parents and brothers' death. "I think," her adoptive father told us, "she must know everything about her situation and we must never do harm to the memory she keeps of her own parents. We love her as our own child because she is a good seed which will make the future of our people." Little Nhung attends the first form of the district school. At first, her studies did not go well. The adoptive father told the schoolmistress her painful story. The mistress visited her, asked two classmates of hers to take turns helping her with her learning. Now, her adoptive father told us smilingly, "She works well, she is also very boisterous! Good sign! That's the rebirth of her personality!"

Like little Nhung, our war orphans are given facilities by the new society to become normal men and women.

MAI THI TU

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION AT TAN TIEN

A WATCHWORD

CHILDRISH voices still resounded in my ears when I was accompanied by Thang, committee secretary, a veteran of the first resistance war who still kept the natural simplicity of Vietnamese peasants.

"How do you like our children?" he asked me with much candour.

I had no time to say a compliment when he went on:

"To obtain these achievements we have had to work to a hair's end."

In fact, ten years ago, when the co-operative managerial board wanted to open an infant school, it met with general indifference. Up to that date, in the countryside, children under six usually stayed at home.

A mother said: "Is it necessary that children go to school to learn how to play? Let them shift for themselves at home." Another one simply shrugged off the idea with these words: "My little daughter has to mind her brother at home. How can I manage if she goes to school twice a day?"

Even Party members were not agreeable at least in the beginning. Thang received from the Party provincial committee a directive on the organization of pre-school education. He submitted the question to the Party cell. But a comrade said: "The Party only supplies guidance in production. Leave this job to the Women's Union." Pre-school education, well, it is the business of the Education Department," said another.

education to be used as reading and spelling exercises in complementary classes for housewives.

At meetings, they exchanged views on the behaviour of their children. Figures were produced of those who could not go to the field, being obliged to mind their children, or drownings and fires triggered by uncared-for children.

Such a seminar was experienced on June 1, 1960.

The first teacher was Hong, a young country girl known for her love of children and her energy. After attending a 35 days' crash course at the provincial educational service, she was put in charge of the class.

For lack of place the class was housed in a hut which old Chinh put at the disposal of the co-operative.

As an example, the Party members and co-op farmers sent their little ones to school first. When the number grew, the place was handed over to peasant children.

Mothers sent their their six or seven year-olds together with their babies, for there was nobody at home to look after the latter. This ended in such a confusion that Hong was at her wits' end. The big children did not obey her, they wrought havoc on the garden, and turned the house topsy-turvy. The neighbours of them filled the house owner's teapot with earth. Hong had to close the class waiting for separate accommodation.

Tongues were set wagging. "There you see. It could not go on like that," said a woman. "How could that

PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG'S SPEECH

(Excerpts)

PREMIER PHAM Van Dong welcomed Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, President of the National United Front of Kampuchea (FUNK) as "the revered leader of the brother Khmer people, grant friend of the Vietnamese people," and extended cordial greetings to the other distinguished Khmer guests.

The Vietnamese people are proud to have the brother Khmer people for a neighbor. The Khmer nation has a glorious history of over two thousand years of struggle to defend and build their country. With their energy, intelligence and creative labour, the Khmer people who built the grandiose Angkor, and shaped a magnificent and original civilization and a society which attaches great importance to moral and spiritual values, have upheld their traditions of indomitable, achieved a thriving economy, produced an extensive network of hydraulic works and communication lines, a rich culture, a developed education and health network. All this is a source of legitimate pride and powerful encouragement for generations of Khmers who are so proud of their national independence and skilful in building their beautiful country.

The Prime Minister then recalled the successes achieved by the Khmer people in the contemporary period, due to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's wise policy. The US imperialists bore a grudge against that policy and consequently engineered the coup d'etat of March 19, 1970.

In the face of the US imperialists' aggression, right from the beginning Samdech Head of State has held high the patriotic banner, calling on the entire Khmer people to close their ranks in the National United Front of Kampuchea to resist the American aggression and save their country. The vibrant appeal in Samdech's speech from March 23, 1970 as well as his subsequent messages to the nation have resounded far and wide in Cambodia, firing Khmer patriots of all social strata and political tendencies into unity and action for the independence and liberty of the Motherland.

The Khmer people, the liberation armed forces and the patriotic forces loyal to Samdech Head of State in the Cambodian Royal Army have valiantly fought back the aggressors and their henchmen, dealing them heavy blows, wiping out or disbanding a big part of the Lon Nol army and considerable manpower of the US and Saigon puppets, expanding the liberated areas, consolidating and developing their administration and the FUNK at all levels, thus driving the Lon Nol-Sirik Houtak clique into a more and more critical situation.

Following these successes, the National Congress of the Khmer people was held. It adopted the Political Program and elected the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the FUNK.

The Political Program of the FUNK, continuing the tradition of anti-imperialist struggle and glorifying the age-old civilization of the Khmer people, is the sequel and development of the judicious policy of Samdech Head of State during the past fifteen years, the programme of solidarity, struggle and victory of the Khmer people, the standard of national independence and construction of a prosperous Cambodia.

In implementation of the Proclamation of March 23, 1970 by Samdech Head of State, the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia has been set up with Samdech Penn Nouth as Prime Minister. It is issued from a broad patriotic movement of the Khmer people, based on administrative organs installed at different levels in the country and relying on the unity of the entire people in the National United Front and on ever growing armed forces.

The Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government warmly welcome the great achievements of the fraternal Khmer people. These are due to ardent patriotism and the spirit of dauntless militancy under the clear-sighted leadership of Samdech Head of State, the continuation of the glorious cause of the Khmer people inaugurated by Jayartman the Seventh and dating back to the brilliant Angkorian era.

They can be ascribed to the vibrant solidarity of the three Indochinese peoples, which has imparted to them an invincible strength. They have been possible also thanks to the sympathy and great and vigorous support given by the whole progressive mankind to the just cause of the brotherly Khmer people.

Prime Minister Pham Van Dong expressed the profound gratitude of the Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government to the Khmer people for their sympathy and vigorous, firm and reliable support to Viet Nam's resistance against US aggression.

The Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government pledge themselves to make all-out efforts to support the just struggle of the fraternal Khmer people against the American imperialist aggressors and their henchmen, the Lon Nol-Sirik Houtak clique, till total victory. We warmly welcome the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, the legitimate and legal government of Cambodia. We resolutely demand that the US withdraw immediately and totally its troops and the Saigon puppet troops from Cambodian territory.

The Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government will unflinchingly honour the sacred commitments, inscribed in the Joint Declaration of the Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference. They have respected and will respect the independence, peace, neutrality, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cambodia within her present borders. They have respected and will respect her national rights and her political regime.

The Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government undertake to do all they can so that all the future generations of our two peoples will live in concord, mutual love and respect, so that they may be cordially united and support each other with all their forces in the fight against the common enemy as well as for long-term co-operation in the building of their countries, each in its own way.

The DRVN Prime Minister stressed the historical significance of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples.

The Joint Declaration reflects the will of our three peoples to strengthen their solidarity and fight resolutely to defeat completely the common enemy, the US imperialism and their lackeys, to safeguard our respective fundamental national rights. It constitutes a model charter governing the relations among the peoples of neighbour countries. It marks a new and very important step forward in the development of the fraternal friendship and long-standing co-operation among the three Indochinese peoples in the struggle against foreign aggression as well as in the building of their countries.

The history of the aggression against, and domination over, our three countries by the colonialists and imperialists for nearly a hundred years from the end of the last century, through World War Two, brings out this fact: be they the French colonialists, the Japanese fascists or the American imperialists, they always hatch aggressive designs against our three countries. They always make use of the positions they have conquered in one of our three countries to launch aggression against the others. They always resort to the traditional "divide and rule" policy of making Indochinese fight Indochinese.

Having learned this lesson, our three peoples have clearly realized that their destinies are closely linked together. None of our three countries can live in peace, independence, and freedom if the territory

of the others still remains a prey to imperialist aggression.

While resolutely defending our national independence, we have always strongly supported the struggle of fraternal neighboring peoples to recover and safeguard their national independence.

present, as a result of the impudent expansion of the war of aggression of the US imperialists to the whole of Indochina and of the successes of historic significance of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples, the existing time-honoured friendship among the Vietnamese, Khmer and Lao peoples is further strengthening. Our militant solidarity has been forged in the protracted, hard but certainly victorious struggle of the three fraternal peoples fighting shoulder to shoulder against the US imperialists, the most dangerous enemy of the Indochinese peoples and the whole mankind. This militant solidarity is a sure guarantee of the total victory of our resistance against US aggression, for national salvation. It is an unsalable basis for the time-honoured fraternal co-operation among our three countries.

Premier Pham Van Dong recalled the US new schemes of aggression of both zone of Viet Nam and reaffirmed the Vietnamese people's resolve to resist and their support to the Khmer and Lao peoples' struggle.

The victory of the war of resistance of our three peoples will be a great contribution to the struggle of the world's peoples for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress. In their noble cause, our three peoples have always enjoyed the warm sympathy and priceless support of the socialist countries, the justice- and peace-loving countries and the peoples in the world, including progressives in the United States.

On this occasion, the Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government express their sincere and profound gratitude for this noble international support. We are convinced that our brothers and friends the world over will give increased support and assistance in all spheres to the just struggle of the Vietnamese people as well as the Khmer and Lao peoples, till total victory.

SAMDECH NORODOM SIHANOUK'S SPEECH

(Excerpts)

SAMDECH Norodom Sihanouk expressed the emotion provoked in him by his current visit to the DRVN, "a country which is the pride of our Indochinese and all freedom-loving peoples, a glorious and heroic country."

One can perhaps aware that the reactionary traitors in Phnom Penh have given orders to their "militant court" to sentence me to death for "high treason."

My so-called "betrayal" of the Khmer Fatherland is my inflexible policy of anti-imperialist solidarity with the fraternal Vietnamese people and my conviction that the future of my people cannot be ensured in peace, security, independence and territorial integrity and, consequently, in dignity and happiness of life, unless it benefits for ever from the friendship of socialist Viet Nam which is and will be the only, unique genuine Viet Nam; because this is the Viet Nam of the entire Vietnamese people, (Whereas the "Republic" of Thieu-Ky, heirs to Ngo Dinh Diem, is not Viet Nam just as that of Lon Nol is not Cambodia.)

My "crime," according to the Lon Nol clique and their American bosses, is to have "betrayed the neutrality of Cambodia" — I quote their own words — for the sake of the Viet Cong and the Viet Minh.

As I pointed out in my speech at the magnificent reception offered yesterday by His Excellency the President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Khmer people and I myself have really given to the fraternal Vietnamese people fighting against the US imperialists for the liberation of the Southern half of their Fatherland an effective support and assistance, that is to say a support and assistance which is not verbal.

This is because one cannot stand in the middle of the road between the aggressor and the victim of aggression, between the Americans who come from far away to neo-colonize without any valid justification a neighbour country and a brother who has the sacred duty to drive the neo-colonialist foreigner out of his Fatherland.

What is more, to help the Vietnamese people in their struggle against US neo-colonialist imperialism means first of all to help my own Fatherland and my own people protect themselves against the same mortal danger which is US aggression.

The puppet regime of Lon Nol itself has just substantiated my words in showing to the world that

by reversing her policy, Cambodia, which her numerous friends in the world used to call "an oasis of peace, stability, freedom, and progress," has within a few weeks become a real hell, offering at least on a great part of her territory a quasi-apocalyptic spectacle and becoming "after sixteen years of unequalled independence, a colony with as many as three masters — US imperialism, its lackey regime in Saigon, and another of its lackeys, the regime in Bangkok."

Samdech Head of State then dealt with measures to put an end to the Cambodian "tragedy," "a tragedy" which he said is inseparable from the South

remains a prey to imperialist aggression."

Nixon has greatly publicized his so-called irrevocable decision to withdraw all US ground forces from Cambodia at the end of next June.

But even if such a withdrawal takes place, that does not mean that my country will ipso facto recover its independence, neutrality and peace.

The satellite forces of the Thieu-Ky puppets have threatened to stay without limit in space or time in Cambodia where they will behave as in a conquered country.

The Lon Nol clique leaps for joy over it, while the Khmer people cannot tolerate such an occupation and such a colonization which are as anachronistic as it is impudent.

to be violated in a brazen manner by US bombers which will continue to rain on our peaceful population millions and millions of tons of bombs, napalm, etc. and this will last as long as the Khmer patriots keep up their fight against the traitors in Phnom Penh.

In such conditions it is inconceivable that we should ever accept the terms of the enemy who demands that the Khmer people down their arms even without being defeated, and that an "international conference" will "take charge" of our country, that is to say legalize the regime in Phnom Penh which has usurped constitutional power, as well as the new status of Cambodia as a new-type colony of the United States and of the latter's protégés in Saigon and Bangkok.

Samdech N. Sihanouk affirmed the Khmer people's determination to fight against US aggression.

BIOGRAPHY OF SAMDECH NORODOM SIHANOUK

- Born on October 31, 1922.
- Secondary education in Saigon (South Viet Nam).
- Higher education (Military) in Saumur (France).
- Elected King by the Council of the Crown in 1955.
- Abducted in favour of his father in 1955.
- 1955: After long months of negotiations with France he obtained the latter's agreement to transfer to Cambodia all powers that France still held after the signing of the "Treaty of Independence" in 1953: judicial, police, military, and diplomatic.
- 1955: Set up the Sangkum Reasi Niyom, a vast national gathering which included different political parties.
- Took part in the Asian-African Conference in Bandung (where he met Premier Pham Van Dong for the first time).
- 1955: Declared the neutrality of Cambodia.
- 1955: Granted Cambodia's *de jure* recognition to the People's Republic of China.
- 1956: Elected Head of State (after King Suramarit's death).
- 1956: Several times Chairman of the Council of Ministers.
- 1956: Led the Cambodian delegation to the Non-Aligned Countries' Conference in Belgrade.
- Granted *de jure* recognition to the Provisional Government of the Republic of Algeria.
- 1961: Initiated the Geneva Conference on Laos.
- 1963: Rejected American aid (economic and military).
- 1963: Recognized the NFL as the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people.
- 1965: Broke off diplomatic relations with the USA and Viet Nam.
- 1967: Recognized *de jure* the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.
- 1968-1969: Obtained official recognition of Cambodia's existing borders by fifty sovereign states (among them the DRVN and the RSVPNG).
- 1969: Announced Cambodia's *de jure* recognition of the RSVPNG.
- Accorded *de jure* recognition to the German Democratic Republic.
- Represented Cambodia at President Ho Chi Minh's funeral.
- 1970: Founded the National United Front of Kampuchea (FUNK).

Viet Nam tragedy and the Lon Nol tragedy. The tale and sinister outcome of which is US imperialism.

His Excellency my dear brother Pham Van Dong has rightly underlined that "our destinies are closely linked to one another" that "none of our three countries can live in peace, independence and freedom while the territory of the others

Neither will the Khmer people allow the Bangkok government to send, as it has promised Lon Nol, contingents of the Thai army into the territory of our Fatherland.

Our territorial waters and our off-shore islands, for their part, have already been occupied by elements of the US 7th Fleet and the Saigon puppet navy.

As for our airspace, it continues

The people of Cambodia, through my voice, express their deep and eternal gratitude to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the National United Front of Kampuchea and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam for the total support for so solid a backing and the important material assistance given them without any condition and in a spirit of complete fraternity for the triumph of their just cause.

Allow me also to express my warmest congratulations on their great successes which your government and your people, guided by the teachings of President Ho Chi Minh, have obtained in all the domains of peaceful and socialist construction.

War is the costliest thing in the world.

Having had to face it — the whole world knows with what heroism and at the price of what enormous sacrifice — the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has performed this unique *tour de force* by giving an extraordinary *elan* to her public works, her public health, her national education, all levels, her national economy, her industry and first of all her agriculture.

To describe such progress, I would like to use the term "miracles" but I must make it clear that this is the miracle of the faith, the integrity, the industriousness and the patriotism of the most talented people in the world — the Vietnamese people.

That is a very great lesson this people give to all those who alone but I must make it clear that this is the miracle of the faith, the integrity, the industriousness and the patriotism of the most talented people in the world — the Vietnamese people.

Because such a war cannot be won with sheer courage alone, such a war requires that the people concerned know also how to win the battle of economic progress and of national economic rehabilitation.

Out of the Frying-Pan Into the Fire

DEFENCE Secretary Melvin Laird testified before a Senate Committee on May 15 that the US and Saigon troops had penetrated into Laos (UPI, May 18). He took care to add that the operations he was referring to were staged from time to time as defensive measures and lasted only a few hours.

On the same day, in Johanna Nguyen Van Thien's lounge, Melvin Laird stated that Saigon troops had been operating for some time now in Lower Laos, and that the possibility of a large-scale intervention in that area was not to be excluded (Los Angeles Times quoted by AFP, May 18).

A spokesman of the State Department hastened to put things more accurately and said that US "advisors" accompanying Saigon units to Laos were not to be considered as fighting forces (AFP, May 20).

Longitudinal jugglers of the Washington rulers are well known to everybody: the aggressor becomes victim of aggression, the invasion of Cambodia a move in defence of her independence and neutrality, the salvation of the one another one to put an end to it, so on and so forth.

The last however is that the Nixon administration has sent US and Saigon troops to Laos - after dispatching several battalions of Thai mercenaries there. This constitutes a new step in the "secret war" which has attained large proportions in Laos. The Symington report made public in April, revealed that the air war had been carried on against that country since 1966 by a 3,000-man US mission headquartered in Vietnam. (USAF sources sometimes rise to 600 per day).

All this casts a cruel light on the true intentions of the White House towards Laos, while trumpeting about its devotion to withdraw 150,000 GIs from South Viet Nam, attached to it several conditions and refused to set a definite timetable for troop withdrawal. As far as Laos is concerned, one may expect that a decision will be taken by Nixon on the same pattern as that concerning Cambodia: to eventually deploy big units of the US and Saigon forces against Lao patriots. A conclusion is self-evident: Nixon has no desire to end the war; on the contrary he wants a military victory in Viet Nam at all costs.

Does he expect to justify his undertaking in Laos by successes promised by him - as he had done after invading Cambodia? But as he has actively mistaken in Cambodia, how can he carry the day in Laos? The forces of the Lao Patriotic Front have liberated the Plain of Jars and a major part of Lower Laos despite US war jets and the Summit Conference of intensification. Now that the Summit Conference of intensification. Now that the Summit Conference of intensification. Now that the Summit Conference of intensification.

Its opening new fronts at a time when setbacks in Viet Nam have driven him into the defender, Mr. Nixon is jumping out of the frying-pan into the fire.

In the United States

NEW PROTESTS AGAINST NIXON

1,200 US lawyers representing big firms have come to Washington in a chartered train to urge US Congress to take measures to stop once the American war in Indochina.

They handed to the US authorities a petition signed by over 2,000 lawyers, demanding immediate withdrawal of all US troops from Cambodia and other countries in Indochina. Meanwhile, lawyers in Washington have called a meeting in protest against the US military aggression in Indochina - a "blatant" violation of international law.

Opposition to the US war in Indochina has continued also to be displayed by American students. More than 50 colleges and universities

have been brought to a standstill by the students' anti-war strike.

Three American youths in Washington - Brian McDonnell, Thomas Mahany and Michael Lananah - and 17 students in New York went on a hunger strike against the US aggression in Cambodia.

Hundreds of people in Newton city (Massachusetts) on May 18 held an anti-US war demonstration. Many of them staged a "People's March" in New York.

In New York, some 20,000 people on May 21 paraded in front of City Hall in protest against Nixon's Indochina policy. The march was organized by the "Workers and Students for Peace Coalition".

The protesters were mostly young people, but there were also a number of prominent trade-unionists among

U.S. SCHEMES TO DISPATCH MASSES OF SAIGON AND THAI MERCENARIES TO LAOS

THE spokesman of the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee based on May 21 the following statement:

"Of late, the US imperialists and their henchmen in Saigon, Bangkok and Vientiane have adventurously planned to introduce masses of additional Thailand mercenaries and South Vietnamese puppet troops into Laos for attacks on the free zone of the Lao patriotic forces.

"On May 18, 1970, US Defence Secretary Melvin Laird and the Foreign Minister of the Saigon puppet administration themselves openly admitted this fact, and even the spokesman of the Defence Ministry of the Vientiane stooge administration confirmed that 'it was necessary that South Vietnamese forces should intervene in Lower Laos.

"This frantic war intensification and expansion by the US has rendered the situation in Indochina more dangerous than ever before, seriously threatening the security in Southeast Asia and the world.

"These aggressive and bellicose acts of the US and its lackeys once again cynically challenge the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of Laos, in grossing the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Laos and all elementary principles of international law."

The statement stressed: "The Lao Patriotic Front firmly insists

that the US stop all war escalation acts, completely cease its use of GIs, Saigon puppet troops and Thai reactionary forces for an aggression against Laos, completely without any conditions and let the Lao people settle their own affairs themselves."

ON May 21, the spokesman of the DRVN Foreign Ministry also made public a statement condemning the new US plan of aggression against Laos.

ANOTHER statement issued on May 27 by the DRVN Foreign Ministry recalled that the atrocious US air war against Laos started May 17, 1964 was exactly 6 years old. Modern aircraft of different types, including B-52s have been pouring day and night on Laos' territory various kinds of demolition, steel pellet and phosphorus bombs, rockets and toxic chemicals. But the Lao people have remained indomitable and have brought down nearly 1,500 US planes.

The statement reiterated the DRVN Government's support for the five points put forward on March 6, 1970 by the Lao Patriotic Front as a political solution for the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Laos and foremost, stop totally and unconditionally the bombing of Laos so as to create a favourable climate for the Lao parties concerned to meet and settle their own internal affairs.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF LAO PEOPLE ROUND UP

THE two-day International Conference in Support of the Lao People's Struggle against US Aggression held in Cairo wound up with great success on May 21. The Conference was attended

by 53 national delegations and 10 delegations of various regional and international organizations and 100 official representatives.

"At its closing session, the Conference passed a resolution expressing its indignation and its strong condemnation of the US imperialist aggression in Laos and crimes of war against the Lao people.

"The Conference severely denounces the Thai reactionary authorities who have let the US use the Thai territory as a springboard for aggression against Laos and recently sent more Thai combat units to Laos to help the US intensify its aggressive war against this country.

"The Conference fully supports the just and heroic struggle of the Lao people and patriotic forces led by the Lao Patriotic Front against the US imperialist aggressors and their henchmen in Laos.

"The Conference warmly hails the resounding successes recorded by the Lao armed forces and people in their resistance against US aggression, for the defence of their fundamental national rights, sovereignty, neutrality, unity and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Laos.

"The Conference expresses its admiration for the

Lao people who are possessors of a long tradition of struggle against imperialism.

"With their legitimate struggle, the Lao people are substantiating a truth of our epoch: even small countries and all oppressed peoples can successfully resist imperialism and new and old colonialism, including its chiefstain, US imperialism, and win complete victory if they have a correct line, are closely united, fight valiantly, and enjoy the sympathy and support of the progressive forces in the world as well."

The Resolution reaffirmed: The Conference fully supports the present political solution advanced on March 6, 1970 by the Lao Patriotic Front and sincerely expresses its sympathy and support of world public opinion as a correct, fair and reasonable solution. This pays due regard to the legitimate aspirations of the Lao people and the interest of peace in Southeast Asia."

The Conference called on various governments, international organizations and all peace and justice-loving people the world over including progressive in the US to step up their moral and material support to the Lao people and create conditions for them to press their fight against US aggression.

VIET NAM COURIER

68th Plenary Session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam (May 28, 1970)

NIXON ADMINISTRATION'S BELLECOSITY, OBSTINACY AND TRICKINESS AGAIN DENOUNCED

SPEAKING on behalf of the DRVN Government delegation at the 68th session of the Paris Conference, Mr. Nguyen Minh Hai laid bare the bellicosity, obstinacy and trickiness of the Nixon administration. He pointed out that the Nixon administration's professions of "peace" and "serious negotiations" were at utter variance with its current intensification and prolongation of the war in Viet Nam, its expansion of the latter to the whole of Indochina and its maintenance of the Paris Conference in its protracted deadlock.

The DRVN spokesman stressed that if the Nixon administration really wanted to end the war and moved toward a political settlement which is equitable and honorable to all parties, there was no reason why it had not accepted the reasonable

and logical to-point overall solution put forward by the RSVN PRG. He had refused to withdraw completely and unconditionally troops of the US and its satellites from South Viet Nam within 6 months as proposed by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, head delegate of the RSVN PRG delegation. There is no reason either for the Nixon administration to turn down the RSVN PRG fair proposal for the establishment of a provisional coalition government in South Viet Nam to be entrusted with the organization of free and democratic general elections there.

Therefore, Mr. Nguyen Minh Vy went on, if the war continues and has even expanded to the whole of Indochina and the Paris Conference remains stalemated, full responsibility rests with the Nixon administration.

South Viet Nam

MILITARY OPERATIONS

ON the night of May 25, the PLAF bombarded 41 bases and positions, causing heavy damage to the enemy. Warners agencies reported.

In Quang Nam province, the Hiep Duc sub-sector has been invested from April 29 up to now. From April 29 to May 21, over 1,500 enemy troops were put out of action, 31 planes and helicopters downed, 25 tanks and 13 ordnance pieces destroyed.

In Gia Lai province, PLAF mounted 3 sudden attacks on the night of May 21 and 22, ambushed 300 enemies, on May 22 (inflicting casualties on 105 American officers and technicians) and wrecked 34 military vehicles (21 tanks and armoured cars) and 2 105mm cannons.

In Ben Tre province, on the night of May 17, 3 puppet companies were wiped out in Binh Dai district, 7 aircraft downed and over 100 fire-arms captured.

NEW PROTESTS AGAINST NIXON

(Continued from page 6)

of Cambodia, out of Viet Nam, out of US campuses, and carried through the DRVN and the RSVN as they marched through the centre of the city.

On May 10, the National Committee of the United States Party of the United States convened an extraordinary session against introduction of US troops into Cambodia.

In a speech delivered at a conference of the US Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, one of the most important unions in the country, held in Atlantic City (New Jersey) on May 25, Potolsky, President of the Union, denounced the war conducted by the US in Indochina and declared support for the actions of the American senators to block invest-

ments for the military operations in Cambodia.

"The plan for Vietnamization of the war is not, in my opinion, a plan for peace. It is a plan that perpetuates the war," stated Harriman, American chief negotiator at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, at the House Foreign Affairs Committee on May 25.

William Fulbright, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, on May 25 urged Americans to continue their protest against the Indochina war.

He said, "I hope and urge that the Nixon administration should sustain their protest until the last American soldier has been withdrawn from Indochina."

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION...

(Continued from page 2)

The schoolmistress is also the object of universal care. Old folks give her advice and encouragement. The boys give her guarantees for her a decent living standard. Formerly she received as salary the pay for a number of work-days equal to that of an average farmer. At present, the co-op social security funds and parents' contributions make up the money equivalent of a number of work-days equal to that of the best farm hands. She is paid even during the time of her training at the district town or provincial capital.

In four years of war, there was no class interruption. More than ten new classrooms have been built in bricks and in mud. At present only five classes still operate in the communal house, parents and parents' dwellings, all the others have their own buildings. The school furniture and equipment have doubled. The pupil enrolment has increased.

cent of the village cadres. Mothers of large families have found pre-school education a paying proposition. Apart from field work, Mrs. Phuong, a mother of six, is also one of the co-op deputy managers. Mrs. Mai, a mother of five and married to an armyman, concurrently does agricultural work and is permanently on duty on the Party village committee.

School-years	Number of classes	Enrolment	Percentage of the co-op children population	Number of teachers
1964-1965	15	478 children	15	15
1965-1966	19	550	52	19
1966-1967	30	375	51	30
1967-1968	22	676	64	22
1968-1969	34	1005	90	34

INFANT SCHOOLS UNDER THE BOMBING

TAN Tien village experienced the same difficulties as other villages in the US war escalation. Bombs and rockets hit many localities, destroying store-houses and dwellings.

Right at the beginning, the Party village committee adopted a resolution recommending measures to be taken for the security of the children and continuity of pre-school education.

The classes were split and scattered in various villages. Each of them had a big solid, airtight shelter, medicine chest for first-aid attention and each child, an individual fox-hole with a lid, and a broad-brimmed splinter-proof plaited straw hat. A communication trench linked the classrooms to the ricefields to evacuate the children in case of a fire.

One day, time-bombs were dropped near two classrooms. The classes were instantly evacuated and continued to function in the peasants' huts. Another classroom was burnt, but the peasants rushed in time, put out the fire and repaired the damage. The following day, the class was resumed.

Satisfied that their children are well looked after, women can now put all their minds in production work or other social activities. Formerly, out of 3,000 women in the village, 2,000 were able to engage in the farming. At present, besides the work common to the weaker sex, 164 women are in charge of various functions in the rural administration. Party organization, mass organizations and co-op management, making up 60 per

The school managerial board takes pride in frequently receiving letters from the front. The serviceman Xuan, who has three children, is happy to see that his wife continues to do the farming as all her children go to the infant class.

Pre-school education at Tan Tien has thus fulfilled the tasks assigned to it.

PHUONG ANH

CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG

(Continued from page 1)

The revolutionary armed struggles of the people of the Southeast Asian countries, the struggles of the people of Korea, Japan and other Asian countries against the revival of Japanese militarism by the US and Japanese reactionaries, the struggles of the Palestinian and other Arab peoples against the US-Israeli aggressors, the national liberation struggles of the Latin American, African and Latin American peoples, and the revolutionary struggles of the peoples of North America, Europe and Oceania are all developing vigorously. The Chinese people firmly support the people of the three Indochinese countries and of other countries of the world in their revolutionary struggle against US imperialism and its lackeys.

US imperialism, which looks like a huge monster, is in essence a paper tiger, now in the throes of its death-bed struggle. In the world of today, who actually fears whom? It is not the Vietnamese people, the Lao people, the Cambodian people, the Palestinian people, the Arab people or the people of other countries who fear US imperialism. It is US imperialism which fears the people of the world. It becomes panic-stricken at the mere rustle of leaves in the wind. Innumerable facts prove that a just cause enjoys abundant support while an unjust cause finds little support. A weak nation can defeat a strong, a small nation can defeat a big. The people of a small country, if only they dare to rise in struggle, take up arms and grasp in their own hands the destiny of their country. This is a law of history.

People of the world, unite and defeat the US aggressors and all their running dogs!

Editor's Note: Kasang is a district of Svay Rieng, a kind of Cambodian enclave in South Viet Nam and known these days as Povo's Bank.

AT the Kasang *srok* (district), mulpas had been burned. The *Khol Chham* (Khmer New Year) was drawing near. The new land was awaiting the heavy sun, the rain, and the peasant looked forward to the harvest time with its traditional festivities, in particular its *lam* folk dances all day and night long.

Nevertheless, what happened this year was much more important than the downpours and a bumper crop. And the thing was this.

day the man who at the royal ceremony of the Sacred Furrow holds the gold-handled plough and cuts a symbolical furrow to set the example for the whole country. At all events the Trapeang Thmas *plam* was at a loss. So was the *plam* Popen. Even at the *plam* Ve Reveng where people were somewhat more abreast with current events, nobody was able to explain the whole business. What people knew for certain was that on the other side of the border, on South Vietnamese territory, gunshots and shelling were becoming more intense and more frequent and planes roaring overhead day and night. Flares sent up over there illuminated even roof-tops at the Popen *plam*.

But upon other pieces of news reached the *srok*, it was learnt that for 5 straight days, people had

In such circumstances, how can the Khmer peasant sit with folded arms? And Kompongcham and Kandal have blazed the trail for Svay Rieng and other provinces of the Kingdom.

The Kasang inhabitants went and looked at the men of the Prebhum Chhnam time (anti-colonialist Resistance) prior to the recognition of the country's independence (54). These were patriots who had always been in close touch with the deep aspirations of the people and showed them the right course to take each time they found themselves at the cross-roads. In these hours of perplexity, it was a good fortune for the inhabitants of many *plams* of Kasang, just as in the whole country, to receive leaflets carrying statements by Samdech calling for popular uprisings to overthrow

sat down well in line and chatted gaily. An open-faced and intelligent-looking youth said convincingly, "These rifles were distributed to us by Samdech for the defence of the *plam*. In view of the present situation, we deem it necessary to return them to the people's power."

The conversations were in full swing when mothers of families and young girls brought in food and delicacies. The combatants heartily agreed to stop the night so that there was time to kill a pig for a small feast in the morning. However, moments later, an envoy from Popen turned up and announced that the nearby *plam* was awaiting them for a similar ceremony. Our combatants hastened to set off to the great disappointment of the inhabitants of Trapeang Thmas who wanted to retain them.

In only a few days, in all of Kasang, the reactionary Lon Nol administration became nothing more than a bad dream. More than a hundred civil-guards surrendered their rifles to the people's rule. Meetings were held in various *plams* in support of Samdech and to condemn the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique. The first one held in the centre of Kompong Trach to celebrate its liberation was attended by over 500 people. Bonzes also took part in it and chanted prayers "so that the people might be freed from the grip of the American demons and the traitors' clique." After long minutes of reflection, a bonze said, "Svay Rieng has a really bad reputation in the whole country. It is in Svay Rieng that the first anti-Samdech demonstration occurred. However, it was staged by a handful of people who were far being representatives of the province's population. In reality, the people of Svay Rieng have always regarded the Vietnamese as brothers. As for us bonzes, we also hate the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique. Yet we didn't know what to do. Now we can clearly see where the truth lies and make a difference between right and wrong."

At present, the *srok* of Kasang is bustling with an activity never seen before. The downtrodden who have been hitherto so ruthlessly ground and humiliated have voted in enthusiasm for the FUNK Committee whose task is to lead after the *plam* and *srok* to all fields. Everybody shouts, "Chhay Samdech!" (Support Samdech) and "Prachay Lon Nol!" (Down with Lon Nol). And gaily, people join in dancing the *lam* folk with humming love songs. More than that, now they also and more often sing the songs of the Resistance which urge unity and patriotic action for national salvation and for the defence of the *srok*.

(Reportage by Thy Saroun, published in Svay Rieng News, April 17, 1970.)



IN CAMBODIA

Kasang Responds to SAMDECH SHAIK'S Appeal

ONE day in March last, Kasang market goes returning from Svay Rieng the town related that an event rather unusual had occurred there. A handful of dragger carrying croters pretending to act on behalf of the entire province, shouted the slogans which were usually to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's policy.

Then further news showed in A native of Treang Khet returning from Phnom Penh where he had settled, told of similar oddball stunts in the capital. The only difference, however, was that in Phnom Penh these so-called spontaneous actions had been organized and directed publicly by army officers. In Phnom Penh too, soldiers were seen carrying new model weapons. Finally, the big news came like a bomb-shell. General Lon Nol declared that Samdech Head of State had been disposed.

Questions were asked. How could the National Assembly ratify such an ouster when Supreme Bodhisattvas continued to hold Samdech in high esteem? And what did Lon Nol, Sirik Matak and what ilk really want? It is known that Lon Nol himself also comes from this province, or to be more correct, from the *plam* (village) of Ray Chang. He is a dangerous chap indeed. His men enter the pagodas without taking off their hats or their boots. Lon Nol went to recruit bandits for South Viet Nam. When the latter crossed the border, they assailed even simple travellers and peasants found on the road. When they lingered on this side of the border, they spent their time robbing the local people of their poultry and pigs, teasing women and young girls and collecting taxes in an arbitrary fashion from market-goers in Kompong Trach, Kratie or Stung. As for Sirik Matak, he is a prince. It is a bit of a surprise that this royal highness now comes out against Samdech Head of State. Maybe, Sirik Matak is dreaming to be some

demonstrated along the Memot-Kompongcham trail with shouts of "Long Live Samdech!" and "Down with Lon Nol!" After that, two jets of the compacts made an attack on over Tonle Sap, and the blood of peace-loving Khmer patriots began reddening the waters of the Mekong in Kompongcham city. The people took to the streets and ran away many officers of the Lon Nol administration. Most drastic was the action at Chup where the insurgent population killed Lon Nol's younger brother, a police captain notorious for his cruelty.

In Takeo, the insurrectionists were joined by even Buddhist bonzes. They assaulted and seized the military post of the provincial capital. Lon Nol troops could hardly fire a few shots when the watch-towers were knocked down and the position was overrun by the wave of assailants.

As reprisals, Lon Nol aircraft bombed and strafed civilians. Six bomb craters could be seen in the heart of the province capital with around them many dead, bomb splinters embedded in their sunburnt backs.

And such was the news which came to the inhabitants of Kasang *srok*.

OVER the past to years or so, though now and then gunfire was heard in one place or another, Cambodia as a whole had been kept out of the war. That was thanks to Prince Norodom Sihanouk's policy of peace and neutrality. This had produced beneficial effects. It was like the sugar-palm which, on a land swept by torrid winds, provides its fresh shade and its juicy sap... Now the Lon Nol clique is conspiring to fell this traditional palm-tree of the land of Cambodia.

Lon Nol found the National United Front of Kampuchea, establish the nation's armed forces and build new power...

There were people who still feel puzzled. The *plam* (village) chief of Trapeang Thmas for instance spent many sleepless nights. With the 27 rifles at his disposal, which side was he to take? He realized that time was no more for idleness sitting, and that he could no longer wait until he was clear in which direction the wind blew. In one morning, he successfully learnt that the post of Anlong Trach had broken away from the Phnom Penh administration and that the defenders of the post of Ta Sas had fled. No developments tolerated no further delay. One day, making up his mind, he went and saw the representative of the insurrectionists, the people's fighters. "Come to our *plam*," he told them in a businesslike manner. "We will stage a small ceremony for the handing over of the weapons. My family is there, my lands are there. It is impossible that I try to deceive you..."

And that very evening, with a small group of armed combatants, the Lon Nol population of the district streamed to Trapeang Thmas to witness the hand-over of the weapons by the rural militia. These civil-guards, who have come to the meeting site by foot or by bike, looked very smart in their colourful sarongs. They held their rifles pointed downward. With an air of relief, their faces radiant with joy, they stepped forward one after another to hand over their weapons, piling them in groups of three. At this moment, white-bloused young girls returned from the fields with their buffaloes. They made a round and joined the crowd. They managed to get into the middle without their knowing it, leaving the animals to roam about looking in vain for their masters.

After having handed over their weapons the civil guards